



CORONA Operations **Approved For Release 2004/08/31 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100040055-0** 25 Sept 1958  
SMM/RWK

At the recent meetings on CORONA on the WCoast, the following developments took place: The firing schedule has slipped a month (not unexpected) with the first firing now set for April 1959. In an over-all sense, Mr. Bissell characterized CORONA progress as good. The major problems at present appear to be Naval support of the recovery system, and several rather massive financial support matters.

TS/COR-0175

30 Sept 1958

SMM/RWK



ARPA has raised questions on CORONA as to what type of requirements it is intended to fulfill and what are priorities? The basic question is one of pioneer reconnaissance versus refined intelligence. The original concept was that pioneer reconnaissance was required first (which would mean in CORONA's case a 6-inch focal length camera) to be followed later by a more refined camera system (utilizing a 36-inch focal length). Mr/ Bissell commented that since it is generally being agreed that a satellite is not the way to do rapid tactical reconnaissance which depends on favorable weather, perhaps the basic premises of CORONA

**Approved For Release 2004/08/31 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100040055-0**

over

NRO review(s) completed.

Approved For Release 2004/08/31 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100040055-0

need to be reexamined. He requested [ ] to undertake this study and suggested that later it might be considered by the ARC or by a joint committee composed of CIA and Air Force representatives. 25X1

TS/COR-0180  
SMM 7 Oct RWK

9 Oct 1958



The financial crisis alluded to in recent weeks appears to be better. The cost of CORONA firings had apparently been jacked up by the addition of many costs not directly attributable to CORONA itself. Mr. Bissell noted that CIA interest in and support to CORONA would most probably continue.

TS/COR-0186  
SMM 14 Oct

16 Oct 1958



Mr. Bissell noted that in his recent involvement with BMD and ARPA differences of opinion between them, both professional and administrative, had made a difficult program even more complicated. He hoped that tentative consideration of the program will not be obscured by antagonisms that have been evident. The 60-med shots under CORONA may be dropped and 6-inch pioneer version of 117L may be dropped